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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM ABC Nightline STATION WJLA-TV
ABC Network

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SUBJECT CIA Reaction to Buckley Torture

TED KOPPEL: Bob, you wrote an extraordinarily powerful story a week or so back, in which you sourced with some of your sources over at the CIA, in which you spoke of senior men at the CIA breaking down and crying when they heard about some of the violence perpetrated against William Buckley, some of the torture against him.

J BOB WOODWARD: Yes.

KOPPEL: That kind of thing would easily leak into the White House. I mean it's to be expected, is it not, that the White House knew what was happening to Mr. Buckley and would be tremendously concerned about getting him out of there at any cost?

WOODWARD: Certainly. And at the root of this policy which has gone astray are some very good intentions. And people have asked, "What is the comparison with Nixon's troubles?" And I think there is a very, very big difference there. And I think the problem is -- and the word really has to be underscored here -- is secrecy: that so many of the things, so much of the foreign policy in this Administration -- and it's a habit that goes way back -- has been conducted in excessive secrecy. And we don't need all of that secrecy.